

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1-7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended): A ~~fuel cell, comprising: a membrane electrolyte assembly; and a collector for collecting electricity, said collector being disposed on both sides of said~~ membrane electrolyte assembly, wherein said membrane electrolyte assembly for a fuel cell, comprising;

an electrode including ~~[[a]] an~~ metal oxynitride oxygen reduction electrode catalyst comprising an oxynitride containing Ta ~~at least one transition metal element selected from the group consisting of La, Ta, Nb, Ti, and Zr, wherein atomic ratio of (transition metal~~ element):(oxygen):(nitrogen) (tantalum):(oxygen):(nitrogen) is (1±0.1):(1±0.1):(1±0.1); and

an acidic electrolyte contacting said ~~metal oxynitride~~ oxygen reduction electrode catalyst, wherein said ~~metal oxynitride~~ oxygen reduction electrode catalyst having an oxygen reduction catalytic activity at a potential of 0.4 V or higher relative to the reversible hydrogen electrode potential in said acidic electrolyte.

9. (Currently Amended): The ~~fuel cell~~ membrane electrolyte assembly according to Claim 8, wherein the ~~metal oxynitride~~ oxygen reduction electrode catalyst is dispersed as fine particles on a catalyst carrier which is an electronically conductive powder.